

Important information for all bear hunters

Tag requirements

Nonresidents must purchase a locking tag in addition to their license to hunt either a black or brown/grizzly bear.

Resident hunters do not need a tag to take black bears, but must possess a \$25 locking tag if they want to hunt brown/grizzly bear in most areas of the state. No such locking tag is required in Unit 11, 13 (except Denali State Park), 16B, 19D, 20D, in that portion of Unit 20E outside of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, 21D, 22, 23, 25D, and in the brown bear subsistence hunt areas (see subsistence hunt areas on page 25) when hunting under state subsistence regulations. Big game tags are valid from the date of purchase through December 31 of that year.

Where tags are required, they must be locked on the hide immediately after the kill and must remain there until the hide is processed or exported.

Bear tags may not be transferred to another hunter. A nonresident bear tag may be used for any other species for which the tag fee is of equal or lesser value, but you must have a harvest ticket for that species.

A hunter less than 10 years old is not allowed to kill a bear, except under direct, immediate supervision of a licensed adult at least 18 years old. The bear would then be counted against the adult's bag limit. (See *bag limit*, pg. 14.)

Evidence of sex

If you take a brown/grizzly bear anywhere in the state or a black bear in Units 1-7, 11-17, 19D, or 20, evidence of sex (penis sheath or vaginal orifice) must remain attached to the hide until it is sealed.

In Units 1-4, a black or brown bear wounded by a hunter counts as the bag limit for the regulatory year. "Wounded" means there is sign of blood or other sign that the bear has been hit by a hunting projectile.

Nonresident brown/grizzly bear hunters must be accompanied in the field by a guide/outfitter or a resident relative within second-degree of kindred (See Guide Information, page 10).

Sealing requirements

Sealing means taking the skull and skin (with claws and evidence of sex attached) of the bear you killed to an officially designated "sealing officer." The skull must be skinned from the hide and **both must be unfrozen.**

The sealing officer asks questions about when, where, and how the bear was taken, measures the skull and may pull a small tooth or take other biological samples. Then the officer locks a metal or plastic seal on the hide and on the skull. The seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process begins and on the skull unless it is cleaned for display.

Part of the sealing requirement is that you sign the sealing certificate. If you can't get your bear to a sealing officer in person, you must complete and sign a temporary sealing form available from the department. You must also make sure that someone takes the bear and the temporary certificate to the sealing officer within the time required.

If you are a nonresident and kill a brown/grizzly bear while on a guided hunt or while hunting with a resident second-degree kindred relative, both you and your guide or resident relative must sign the sealing certificate or temporary sealing certificate.

Black bears taken in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20 must be sealed within 30 days of the kill. In Unit 19D East, black bears must be sealed.

In the remainder of Unit 19D, black bears taken Jan 1 - May 31 need not be sealed unless removed from Unit 19. Black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island, in Unit 3, must be sealed within 14 days of kill and must not be removed from Units 1-4 until sealed.

All brown/grizzly bears must be sealed. Brown/grizzly bears taken in most units must be sealed within 30 days of the kill. Special sealing requirements apply within the brown bear subsistence hunt areas when bears are taken under a subsistence registration permit (see *subsistence hunt areas* on page 25). Any of these time limits can be shortened by ADF&G.

If you kill a brown/grizzly bear in Unit 8 you may not take the bear out of that unit until it has been sealed. If you kill a brown/grizzly bear in Unit 20E you may not take the bear out of that unit, except to Tok, until it has been sealed.

You may not transport or export from Alaska any untanned bear skin or skull until it has been sealed.



Seth Grove, 15, of Big Lake, with his first black bear taken while bow hunting in Prince William Sound in 2003 with his father, Capt. Mel Grove.

Brown/grizzly bear bag limits

Depending on where you hunt, brown/grizzly bear bag limits are either one-bear-every-four-regulatory-years, one bear every regulatory year, or two bears every regulatory year (A regulatory year is July 1 through June 30).

One bear every four regulatory years

If you kill a bear in any of these “one bear every four regulatory years” areas: Units 1-5, 6D, 7-10, and the portions of 13E and 16A that are within Denali State Park, 14, 15, and 22C, you may kill a bear in any “one bear every regulatory year” area during the next regulatory year, but you may NOT kill a bear in any “one bear every four regulatory year” area for four regulatory years.

One bear every regulatory year

If you kill a bear in any of these “one bear every regulatory year” areas in Units 6A, 6B, 6C, 11,12, 13 and 16A (except the portions of 13E and 16A that are within Denali State Park), 17-21, 22A, 22B, 22D, 22E, 23-26, you may kill a bear in any legal area of the state during the next regulatory year.

Two bears every regulatory year

You may kill two bears every regulatory year in Unit 16B or 20E. Additionally, if you kill a bear in any other legal area of the state, you may kill one more bear in Unit 16B or 20E during the same regulatory year. You may kill a bear in any legal area of the state during the next regulatory year.

Brown/grizzly bear subsistence hunting

Resident hunting by subsistence registration permit for brown/grizzly bears used for food is allowed in Unit 9B, all drainages in Unit 9E that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9E and 9D, Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, Unit 21D, Unit 22, all drainages in Unit 23 except for the Baldwin Peninsula north of the Arctic Circle, Unit 24, and Unit 26A. Hunters may hunt under an alternate set of regulations adopted to better allow subsistence use of brown bears. General brown bear hunting seasons remain in effect in these areas.

In these registration subsistence hunts, the bag limit is one bear every regulatory year under a subsistence registration permit. Taking a brown bear in one of these areas under a subsistence permit does not count in the one bear every four regulatory years bag limit restriction in other units.

See unit pages (34-107) for information on where subsistence permits are available. For specific information on hunts listed in unit pages, please call the ADF&G office in or nearest the subsistence area where you want to hunt.

Attention All Hunters:

You may not hunt brown/grizzly bears over bait or scent lures.

In units with a brown/grizzly bear bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years

If your last successful hunt was

Your next opportunity to hunt is

*fall 01 - spring 02.....fall 05 - spring 06
fall 02 - spring 03.....fall 06 - spring 07
fall 03 - spring 04.....fall 07 - spring 08
fall 04 - spring 05.....fall 08 - spring 09
fall 05 - spring 06.....fall 09 - spring 10*

The following information compares the requirements of the subsistence versus general regulations within the brown bear subsistence areas:

Subsistence hunting

- one bear per regulatory year
- meat must be salvaged for human consumption
- no tag required but you must register to hunt
- hide and skull need not be sealed unless removed from subsistence area or presented for commercial tanning; if sealing is required it must be completed by an authorized sealing agent; at the time of sealing **the skin of the head and front claws are removed and kept by ADF&G.**
- no use of aircraft for subsistence hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23 except the Baldwin Peninsula, 24, and 26A. See units for season dates.

General hunting

- \$25 tag required
- see units for seasons
- see units for bag limits
- hide and skull must be sealed by an authorized sealing agent statewide
- meat need not be salvaged

Important information regarding the use of snowmachines:

You may not drive, harass, herd, or molest a bear with any motorized vehicle such as a snowmachine. While you may use a motorized vehicle to locate a bear, you may not use a motorized vehicle to pursue a bear that is fleeing. In addition, you cannot use a snowmachine to drive a bear to another hunter.

Other bear regulations

You **MAY NOT** take black or brown/grizzly bear cubs or sows accompanied by cubs. Cub bear means a brown/grizzly bear in 1st or 2nd year of life, or a black bear (including cinnamon and blue color phases) in the 1st year of life.

You **MAY NOT** buy, sell, or barter any part of a bear except an article of handicraft made from the fur of a bear.

You **MAY NOT** hunt or kill brown/grizzly bears within one-half mile of garbage dumps or landfills (AS16.05.782).

You MAY use the carcass of a skinned brown/grizzly, or a black bear taken June 1 - Dec 31, as animal food or bait. (See *Use of game*, page 21).

Except in the Brown Bear Subsistence Areas, you are not required to keep the meat of a brown/grizzly bear. If you take a brown/grizzly bear in any of these subsistence areas under a registration permit for subsistence purposes, you are required to salvage all meat for human consumption; salvage of the hide or skull is optional.

If you wish to hunt black bears with dogs, you must first obtain a permit from the ADF&G office nearest the area you wish to hunt. You cannot hunt brown/grizzly bears with dogs.

Bears killed in defense of life or property must be skinned and the hide (with claws and evidence of sex attached) turned over to the state.

In the case of a brown/grizzly bear the skull must also be turned over to the ADF&G representative (see *Emergency taking of game*, page 21).



Eric Jennings, 11, of Eagle River, with his first black bear, taken in Unit 7 in spring of 2004.



You MAY NOT hunt black bears over bait or scent lures, except under a bait station permit.

Estimated Maximum Weights of Some Alaska Big Game Species

This table is an estimate of the maximum weight that the hunter might expect to handle and transport from the field for Alaska big game animals.

species	live adult weight lbs.	carcass weight lbs. ^a	boned-out carcass lbs. ^b
moose	1650	990	564
caribou	500	300	171
bison	2000	1200	684
elk	1350	810	462
mt. goat	280	168	96
Dall sheep	230	138	79
muskox	800	480	274
Sitka black-tailed deer	200	120	68
black bear	350	210	120
brown bear	1250	750	428

^a Weight following removal of viscera, head, hide, and lower legs.

^b Weight of carcass meat after all bones are removed.

Salvage of Black Bears

From Jan 1 - May 31, in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20 the hide, skull, and meat must be salvaged and removed from the field; from June 1 - Dec 31, the hide and skull must be salvaged and removed from the field.

From Jan 1 - May 31, in Units 9-10, 18, 19 (except 19D), and 21-26, the meat must be salvaged and removed from the field; from June 1 - Dec 31 either the hide or meat must be salvaged and removed from the field. Bears taken Jan 1 - May 31 may not be used for pet food or bait.

For Unit 19D: In 19D-East the hide and skull must be salvaged and sealed. In the remainder of 19D either the hide or meat must be salvaged.

Black bear baiting requirements

You may establish bait stations for black bears in certain areas after obtaining a permit from the department (see chart on this page.) Black bear baiting is subject to the following restrictions:

You must be at least 16 years old to obtain a bait station.

Before you set up a bait station, you must register at an ADF&G office. You will get a sign to post at your station. If you choose not to use this sign, you must place some other sign that clearly identifies the site as a “Black Bear Bait Station,” and displays the bear baiting permit number assigned by ADF&G, your hunting license number and hunting license numbers of others who hunt over that bait station.

You may register your bait station 15 days before the start of the season; however, bait may not be present until the season is open.

You MAY NOT register a bait station in Units 6D, 7, 14A, 14B, 15, 16A, or 20B unless you have successfully completed an ADF&G approved bear baiting clinic.

Bowhunters wishing to hunt black bears over bait in Units 7 and 14-16 are required to complete an IBEP or equivalent course.

ADF&G may prohibit black bear baiting in local areas.

You may place bait at only two bait stations at the same time. All bait must be biodegradable. The parts of fish and game that may be legally used as bait are heads, bones, guts, skin, or other parts of legally taken game not required to be salvaged. (See page 21). You may also use scent lures with a baiting permit. In addition, for Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used for bait.

You MAY NOT set up a bait station within one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, the Alaska Railroad, the Unit 14 shorelines of the Susitna River and Little Susitna River south of the Parks Highway bridge; the Unit 16 shorelines of the Susitna River, Yentna River below the confluence with the Skwentna River, the Deshka River (Kroto Creek) below the confluence with Trapper Creek, and Alexander Creek; or Unit 7 or 15 shorelines of the Kenai River, Kasilof River, and Swanson River.

You MAY NOT set up a bait station within one mile of a house (including your own home), or other permanent dwelling including seasonally occupied cabins, a developed recreational facility or campground.

You MAY NOT use bait in Unit 1D, that portion of the Chilkat Peninsula south of the Haines Highway, and within 1 mile of the Haines Highway, Lutak Road, the Porcupine Mine road to the confluence of the Porcupine and Klehini rivers, and the Chilkat Lake road from the Porcupine Bridge to Chilkat Landing on the Tsirku River.

You MAY NOT take money, bartered goods, or services from someone who uses your bait station. This does not apply to licensed guides who personally accompany clients at the bait station site.

You MAY NOT intentionally obstruct or hinder a bait station registrant’s feasibility of taking game by using the station without the registrant’s written permission.

In areas where the bag limit is greater than one, ADF&G may limit the number of bears taken over bait as a condition of registration.

You must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed. This includes any contaminated soil.

Areas open for bear baiting

Bait Area	Date of Use	Requirements
Units 1A, 1B, a portion of 1D, 2, 3, 5, 6A, 6B, 6C, 11, 13 (except in Denali State Park), and 17:	April 15 - June 15	P
Unit 6D:	April 15 - June 10	P, BBC
Unit 7 (except Resurrection Creek and tributaries), Unit 14A and 14B, 15, and Unit 16A (except in Denali State Park):	April 15 - June 15	P/BBC/IBEP
Unit 12, 16B, 19 (except 19D East), 20 (except 20B), 21, 24, and 25 (except 25D):	April 15 - June 30	P
Unit 19D East:	April 15 - June 30 Sept 1 - Sept 30	P P
Unit 20B:	April 15 - June 30	P/BBC
Unit 21D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area:	April 15 - June 30 Sept 1 - Sept 25	P P
Unit 25D:	April 15 - June 30 August 1 - Sept 25	P P

P= permit required

BBC = bear baiting clinic required. *In order to obtain a registration permit in these areas the applicant must have attended a bear baiting clinic.*

IBEP=bowhunter education required. *In order to hunt with a bow and arrow and obtain a registration permit in these areas, bowhunters must be IBEP certified.*